

# You Can Do It! Fundraising Tips for Getting to the National History Day Competition!

Be creative! While we've gathered up some past successes, do let us know what you tried and succeeded at!

#### Write a letter

People love getting personal letters. To get started, use our attached letter to introduce the program. Then write your own letter and include the following:

- Describe your project
- Talk about your love of history
- Detail funds you are trying to raise (and what they are for)
- When do you need them by (very important!)

Address the envelopes by hand and sign your name on each letter individually. Be sure to include an envelope addressed to you with each letter – the easier you make it, the better the chance that your readers will contribute. Talk to your school's activities director, PTA, or booster club for suggestions about where to send your letters. Try sending a copy to local rotary clubs or historical societies. Let us know you're fundraising; we might have more suggestions about groups to contact in your area.

#### Run a sale

Run a bake sale, lemonade stand, even a car wash, and make a **HUGE** sign to let people know that the proceeds will go towards your participation in NHD. Ask your friends, family, and neighbors to donate items towards a garage sale, with the understanding that you would organize the sale and keep the proceeds. Choose a good weekend and publicize it well – you'd be surprised how much you can make!

#### Pledge your time

There's not much time to babysit, mow the lawn, or walk dogs before the contest. Make \$100 cards that people can purchase to 'buy' 10 hours of your time *in the future*. On the back put the NHD logo and jobs you are willing to do.

#### Showcase your project

Ask your school, rotary clubs, or historical societies if they have a safe place to display your exhibit with a donations box. Ask if they would be willing to screen your documentary at one of their meetings, or if your school would let you do your performance during an assembly.

#### **Coordinate with local businesses**

Businesses like to demonstrate community involvement by supporting academic programs like NHD! Restaurants such as Culvers and Qdoba may agree to donate a percentage of sales to your cause if you help them bring in more customers. Grocery stores like Festival Foods might have "Brat Barns" outside of their store. Call the managers of your local businesses to see if they would be willing to make a deal.

### **Online Crowd Funders**

Small donations from friends and family add up quickly! Students, teachers, or schools will use social media to help raise money through a GoFundMe page (or any similar platform).

## DON'T FORGET TO SAY "THANK YOU!" REMEMBER TO SHARE YOUR STORY WITH YOUR DONORS.



April 21, 2018

#### Dear Education Supporter,

The Wisconsin student bearing this letter has been selected as a National Finalist for the 2018 National History Day program and is seeking support to participate in the National Contest, which will take place on June 10-14 at the University of Maryland, just outside of Washington, D.C. The Wisconsin Historical Society is the state sponsor for the National History Day program, and our purpose in this letter is to assist students with their fundraising efforts, as they have only a couple weeks between the state competition and the National Contest to raise the necessary funds.

National History Day is a nationally recognized academic enrichment program dedicated to improving the teaching and learning of history in grades 6-12. This yearlong academic program helps students to build critical thinking and research skills as they explore a topic of their own interest connected to an annual theme. The theme for 2018 – "Conflict and Compromise" – has inspired students to explore a wide variety of topics ranging from local to world history, from ancient times to the twentieth century. Students complete in-depth historical research based on primary source documents, often going far beyond their school or community libraries to find information. They create research papers, interactive websites, documentary films, museum-style exhibits, or dramatic performances to present their conclusions.

To become a National Finalist, this student had to enter the National History Day competitive cycle and present their research at local, regional, and state events. At each stage, their work was evaluated by historians, educators, and professionals in related fields. Over 10,000 Wisconsin students participated in National History Day this year, but only 36 projects will advance from Wisconsin to the National Contest. This student's selection as a National Finalist is a testament to their academic achievement, and we hope that you will be able to recognize their hard work with a contribution to help with their expenses. Each National Finalist is responsible for covering the costs associated with attending the National Contest, which averages \$1,685 per student (including student registration fees, food and lodging, and travel expenses).

Thank you for your interest in supporting history education. We really appreciate the assistance of donors like you in making this opportunity possible for students.

Sincerely,

Jenny Kalvaitis Coordinator, National History Day in Wisconsin historyday@wisconsinhistory.org